

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 /071 W

----- 066470

R 081315Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6588

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2790

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICS: BIRTH OF NEW

LEFT-OF-CENTER POLITICAL PARTY

1. SUMMARY: CITIZENS RIGHTS MOVEMENT (CRM) AND INDEPENDENT MK ARYE ELIAV HAVE ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO ESTABLISH NEW POLITICAL PARTY YA-AD(GOAL). FORMATION OF NEW MOVEMENT, WITH TOTAL OF FOUR KNESSET MEMBERS, IS INTENDED TO CONSOLIDATE LEFT-OF-CENTER FORCES CRITICAL OF RABIN GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND TO PROMOTE NEW FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY INITIATIVES. MERGER DOES NOT CHANGE REALITY THAT MINISCULE LEFT-OF-CENTER DOES NOT HAVE POLITICAL MUSCLE TO ATTAIN ITS OBJECTIVES, AND THAT LOCUS OF POWER REMAINS INSIDE RULING LABOR ALIGNMENT. END SUMMARY

2. TWO MINISCULE LEFT-OF-CENTER POLITICAL GROUPINGS-- SHULAMIT ALONI'S CITIZENS RIGHTS MOVEMENT (CRM) AND INDEPENDENT MK ARYE (LYOVA) ELIAV--HAVE ANNOUNCED PLAN TO MERGE IN NEAR FUTURE INTO NEW POLITICAL PARTY TO BE CALLED YA-AD (GOAL). BOTH ALONI AND ELIAV REPRESENT BREAKAWAY ELEMENTS FROM RULING LABOR PARTY, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND ADHERENTS TO NEW PARTY ARE LIKELY TO BE DRAWN PRI-

MARILY FROM SUPPORTERS OF, AND AT EXPENSE OF, LABOR ALIGNMENT.

3. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT MRS ALONI, WHO UNTIL 1969 HAD BEEN A MAPAI MK, FORMED CRM LIST TO COMPETE IN 1973 ELECTION AS PROTEST AGAINST MEIR GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO ADDRESS NATION'S PRESSING SOCIAL/CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES. ELIAV, WHO IN 1969-70 HAD BEEN LABOR PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL, HAS IN RECENT YEARS BEEN OUTSIDER EXCLUDED FROM LABOR PARTY ESTABLISHMENT AS RESULT OF SEVERE CRITICISM WHICH HE HAD LEVELED AGAINST MEIR GOVERNMENT EVEN BEFORE OCTOBER WAR, MAINLY ON FOREIGN POLICY AND SECURITY ISSUES. ELIAV RESIGNED FROM LABOR PARTY KNESSET FACTION ON MARCH 25, 1975 TO BECOME INDEPENDENT MK, STATING THAT "RABIN'S GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT IN ALL FIELDS--POLITICAL SECURITY, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL.." PERSONAL FRUSTRATION WITH HIS INPOTENCE INSIDE LABOR PARTY HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO ELIAV'S DECISION.

4. PURPOSE OF MERGER IS TO TRY TO STRENGTHEN BASE OF LEFT-OF-CENTER FORCES AS PRESSURE GROUP ON GOI FOR NEW INITIATIVES FOR OVERALL SETTLEMENT OF ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE AS WELL AS ON HOST OF DOMESTIC ISSUES. UNFORTUNATELY, YA-AD, LIKE ITS COMPONENT ELEMENTS, WILL REMAIN MINISCULE MOVEMENT CONTROLLING ONLY FOUR KNESSET VOTES.

5. IMMEDIATE BACKDROP TO ANNOUNCED MERGER PLAN HAS BEEN SERIES OF SOUNDINGS IN RECENT MONTHS BETWEEN CRM AND VARIOUS POLITICAL ELEMENTS TO FORM NEW ENLARGED MOVEMENT. CRM HAD FIRST DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF MERGING WITH AMNON RUBINSTEIN'S SHINU (CHANGE) MOVEMENT, ONLY ONE OF POSTWAR PROTEST MOVEMENTS TO HAVE LASTED MORE THAN FEW MONTHS. AFTER COLLAPSE OF THIS EFFORT FOR COMBINATION OF PERSONAL AND IDEOLOGICAL REASONS, CRM WAS EXAMINING POSSIBILITY OF MERGER WITH INDEPENDENT LIBERALS (ILP) AND SHINU FOR FORMATION OF SO-CALLED "LIBERAL CENTER". FACT THAT MRS ALONI APPARENTLY CONDUCTED SECRET TALKS WITH ELIAV AT SAME TIME AS CONTACTS WERE UNDERWAY WITH ILP HAS CAUSED SOME RESENTMENT AND CRITICISM. MOE OVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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IT APPEARS THERE IS LIKELY TO BE SPLIT WITHIN CRM AS RESULT OF MERGER.

6. IN OUR VIEW RESULT OF MERGER WILL BE SOME RE-SHUFFLE IN LINEUP OF "WHO IS AFFILIATED WITH WHOM" AMONG LEFT-OF-CENTER FORCES BUT NO SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THEIR VERY LIMITED IMPACT. FORMATION OF YA-AD IS INDICATION OF DISSATISFACTION AND DISAPPOINTMENT WITH PRESENT GOI, BUT

NUMERICALLY NEW MOVEMENT IS TOO SMALL BOTH IN KNESSET  
AND IN PUBLIC SUPPORT TO BRING ABOUT ANY REAL CHANGES  
IN PRESENT POLITICAL STRUCTURE. INSOFAR AS YA-AD WILL  
HAVE ANY IMPACT AT ALL, IT MAY CONSTITUTE GOAD  
TO RULING LABOR ALIGNMENT AND TEMPTATION TO SOME DISAFFECTED  
MEMBERS OF MAPA DISSATISFIED WITH IMPOTENCE OF BEING LABOR'S  
JUNIOR PARTNER. IT ALSO COULD TAKE AWAY SOME VOTES  
FROM LABOR ALIGNMENT IN NEXT ELECTION--PRESENTLY SCHEDULED  
FOR 1977. IN ANY CASE NEW MOVEMENT WILL NOT HURT DOMESTIC  
BASE OF EITHER LIKUD OR NRP.  
VELIOTES

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